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Report of the Economic and Social Council

Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2000

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted to inform the General Assembly of the requirements resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2000.

2. The Council adopted a number of resolutions and decisions in which it authorized relevant functional commissions, standing committees or expert bodies to undertake additional activities, including meetings, in excess of those initially programmed in the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.[1] In accordance with rule 31 of its rules of procedure, the Council was provided, where appropriate, with a statement of programme budget implications prior to the adoption of those resolutions and decisions. The additional requirements entailed by the Council resolutions and decisions are described below. The additional requirements arising from resolution S-5/1, entitled "Grave and massive violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people by Israel", adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its fifth special session on 19 October 2000 and considered by the Economic and Social Council on 22 November in respect of the recommended resolution will be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session in an addendum to the present report.

3. With regard to additional conference-servicing requirements, in each relevant case the Council was informed of the full cost of the additional services to be provided and that provisions had been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, not only for meetings already programmed at the time of budget preparation but also for meetings or extensions of meetings that might be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings were consistent with the pattern of meetings of past years. On that basis, it was indicated to the Council that no additional resources would be required under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 as a result of the Council's resolutions and decisions.

4. In its report on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1999 (A/54/7/Add.2), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions requested that future reports on the subject contain full cost estimates, including both conference and non-conference costs, of additional requirements. In response to that request, the additional requirements resulting from the resolutions

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and decisions adopted by the Council in 2000 to be financed from the existing provisions of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 are provided in the annex below.

Additional requirements

5. The additional requirements relate to Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/22 on the establishment of a permanent forum on indigenous issues. This resolution was adopted on the recommendation of the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session. A detailed description of the programme budget implications of the resolution is contained in the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its fifty-sixth session.[2] Below is a summary of those implications.

6. Under the terms of paragraphs 1, 4 and 6 of resolution 2000/22, the Economic and Social Council decided:

(a) To establish a permanent forum on indigenous issues as a subsidiary organ of the Council, consisting of 16 members, all serving in their personal capacity as independent experts on indigenous issues for a period of three years with the possibility of re-election or reappointment for one further period;

(b) That the forum would hold an annual session of 10 working days at the United Nations Office at Geneva, at United Nations Headquarters or at such other place as the permanent forum may decide in accordance with existing financial rules and regulations of the United Nations;

(c) That the financing of the permanent forum shall be provided from within existing resources through the regular budget of the United Nations and its specialized agencies and through such voluntary contributions as may be donated.

7. The decision relates to section 22, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. The additional activities entailed by the resolution would consist of one trip per year by the 16 members of the permanent forum to Geneva, or, in the event that the session of the forum is not held in Geneva, one trip per year of the 16 members of the forum and of two Professional staff members of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to New York or any other place as the forum may decide. The two staff members would provide substantive servicing to the forum when it meets outside Geneva. The meeting of the forum would also entail additional conference-servicing requirements.

8. As resolution 2000/22 did not specify the exact place for holding the annual sessions of the permanent forum, the cost of the additional annual requirements is provided in the table below for both Geneva and New York. The Commission on Human Rights and the Council were informed that the provision regarding the location of the annual meetings of the forum implied an exception to the general principle set out in paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that United Nations bodies should plan to meet at their respective established headquarters. In accordance with this principle, the meetings of the forum should be held in Geneva. Furthermore, should the permanent forum be held at locations other than Geneva or New York, the related requirements and provisions would be covered through a host country agreement arrangement in accordance with the relevant provisions of Assembly resolution 40/243.

	Forum held in	
	Geneva	*New York*
	(Annual cost in United States dollars)	
Section 22, Human rights		
(a) Travel of independent experts to attend the permanent forum (16 members)	114 800	145 500
(b) Travel of the staff of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (2 Professional staff to provide support to the forum when it meets outside Geneva)	N/A	10 800
Total (section 22)	**114 800**	**156 300**
Section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services		
(a) Meeting servicing	116 200	133 900
(b) Pre-session documentation	229 400	235 200
(c) In-session documentation	92 800	93 300
(d) Post-session documentation	136 900	140 600
(e) Other requirements	6 700	12 000
Total (section 2)	**582 000**	**615 000**

Conclusions

9. The additional requirements entailed by resolution 2000/22 of the Economic and Social Council would amount to $114,800 if the forum were held in Geneva and $156,300 if it were held in New York. No provisions have been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 to cover these additional requirements and it is not anticipated, at this stage, that the requirements under section 22 of the budget could be met from existing resources. As indicated in paragraph 3 above, it is estimated that no additional resources would be required under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services.

10. It will be recalled that, under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned would be able to be implemented only through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modification of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities would have to be deferred to a later biennium.

11. It is not possible at this stage to identify activities within section 22, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium to finance the costs of the additional activities recommended by the Council in its resolution 2000/22.

12. The Secretary-General is not in a position to indicate whether the forum will be meeting in 2001 or not. Should the General Assembly not be in a position, at this stage, to decide on the location of the meetings of the forum in 2001, the Secretary-General is proposing that, in line with the provisions of paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 40/243, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that United Nations bodies should meet at their respective established headquarters, only the amount of $114,800 required for the meeting of the forum in Geneva be appropriated for 2001. Should the forum be held in another location, the Secretary-General would report on the additional requirements in the context of the second performance report for the biennium 2000-2001. It is also proposed that the same procedure be followed for the requirements of the forum for the following bienniums. In the event that a decision is taken to meet in 2001, the Secretary-General considers that an additional provision of $114,800

should be made under section 22, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. This provision would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require an additional appropriation in the same amount under section 22.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/54/6, Rev.1), vols. I-III.

[2] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 3A* (E/2000/23/Add.1).

Annex

Cost estimates of additional activities to be financed from within the existing provisions of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001[a]

Economic and Social Council resolution decision		*Budget section*	*Additional requirements (in United States dollars)*	
			Substantive	*Conference services (Sect. 2)*
2000/1.	Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing	2	-	169 000
2000/218.	Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights	22	53 800	35 300
2000/219.	The right to food	22	15 600	39 000
2000/221.	Effects of structural adjustment policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights	22	16 600	42 200
2000/247.	Human rights and extreme poverty	22	23 100	-
2000/268.	Human rights of persons with disabilities	22	3 200	-
2000/274.	Abduction of children from northern Uganda	22	15 000	-
2000/275.	Towards a culture of peace	22	-	315 700
2000/284.	Enhancing the effectiveness of the mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights	22	(87 000)	N/A
2000/224 A and B.	Resumed 2000 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations	2	-	195 700
2000/238.	Report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-eighth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission	2	-	169 000
2000/239.	Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its ninth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the tenth session of the Commission	2	-	313 900
2000/240.	Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its forty-third session and provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-fourth session of the Commission	15	340 200	-
	Total		**380 500**	**1 309 800**

[a] The estimates of the cost of the additional activities requested by the Commission on Human Rights relating to perennial activities would be financed from the existing provisions and, therefore, such costs are not included in this table.